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Conversaciones Reales en Inglés

Series 1: Workbook 4

The Internet

SOBRE EL WORKBOOK (LIBRO DE EJERCICIOS)

El workbook se usa junto con el audio que se puede descargar gratis en Inglés.fm. Si tiene comentarios, preguntas o sugerencias visita nuestra página web: valoramos mucho su opinión. ¡Buena suerte!

Mark y Tom

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Transcripción de la conversación

TOM: Hi my name's Tom and I'm sitting here with Mark. Hi Mark!
MARK: Hi Tom!
TOM: Today, we're talking…you…to you from Turó Park[1] in Barcelona, and it's quite a beautiful spot[2], isn't it?
MARK: Yes, it's recognized as one of the…it's called a 'natural green space'…
TOM: And we're by a gigantic[3] pond[4] covered in lilies[5], so…uh…feeling quite relaxed and happy. And today we're gonna[6] talk all about the internet. Now, we know quite a lot about the internet, between us, don't we?
MARK: Yes we do…
TOM: What kind of experiences have you had with the internet? When did you start using it, and in what ways have you used it?
MARK: I probably started in about 1997, when I started work after university and actually had access to the internet. And I was one of the early users among my friends of Hotmail um…I booked flights through EasyJet[7], not long after the company started, and books from Amazon[8]…
TOM: Yeah, I've been buying on line for years and years, and in 1998 I started building websites; I programmed for several years, I was a web developer[9] in London, on the London Stock Exchange[10]'s website for a few years and I've worked as a freelance[11] des…web designer and web developer for years and I've been a blogger[12] – I've got my own blog[13] – and for the last few years I've been getting more into[14] podcasting and audio on line…
MARK: So following the progression of the internet, every step?
TOM: Exactly! So firstly I wanna[15] talk a bit more a…a bit about the definitions and the difference between the Internet and the World Wide Web…
MARK: Is there a difference?
TOM: Yeah, well lots of people…use both terms…uh…interchangeably[16]; so they will say "I'm going on the internet", or "I'm going on the web", but actually they're slightly different. The Internet is the actual, physical network[17] of computers, so the…the sort of hardware[18], the infrastructure[19]…
MARK: OK…
TOM: And the World Wide Web is the system of interlinked[20] HTML or *Hyper Text*[21] documents, so the actual websites that are sent around, on the Internet…
MARK: So they are actually *quite* different?
TOM: Yeah, well, they're…the Web is part of the Internet basically. It's one of the services that…uh…is communicated through the Internet. Now, do you know where it came from? Who invented the internet, who invented the network?
MARK: Ah…I have a bit of a connection here…The inven…
TOM: No…That's the Web, you see…

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MARK: Ahh…
TOM: You've got them confused… The Internet was…uh…invented in America by the US Department of Defense in the Sixties, and it was…uh…you know, people say it was perhaps a military strategy or it was to create a network that would withstand[22] a nuclear attack[23]… uh… and it was originally called ARPANET[24] and it was developed, I think it went on line…uh…in 1969 and the first email was then invented in 1971. And the World Wide Web…what's your connection with the inventor of the World Wide Web?
MARK: Ah…I went to the same school as him! The inventor was Sir….
TOM: Tim Berners Lee[25]…
MARK: Tim Berners Lee, but he left my school the year I was born so unfortunately[26], I never got to meet him! But that's the connection…I went to the same school as the inventor of the World Wide Web…
TOM: Fantastic claim to fame[27]! And he studied…uh…physics at Oxford University[28], where I'm from in England, so I also have a vague connection[29]…Anyway the first website was published on Christmas Day in 1990, so twenty years ago. And do you know where it was? Where it was invented?
MARK: No, no idea…
TOM: In what country?
MARK: England?
TOM: Switzerland!
MARK: Really?
TOM: At…uh… an organization called CERN[30], which is the Europe…European Organization for Nuclear Research[31]…which is actually a…a sort of physics…uh…particle physics[32] research …uh…unit set up[33] and funded[34] by eleven European governments. So the Americans invented the Internet and the British invented the World Wide Web. With the help of lots of other Europeans!
MARK: Ah…
TOM: So…what do you think are some of the busiest[35] websites in the world now? I was looking some statistics up[36] on the internet…
MARK: Hmm **…**
TOM: What would you think is the busiest website in the world?
MARK: I'd say Google…
TOM: And you would be correct…
MARK: Ah…because now, *rather than*[37] saying "I'm going to look for something", Google has become a verb, "I'm going to Google"…
TOM: …yeah…
MARK: …my search…
TOM: It's actually entered the…the…English dictionary as a…uh…an official word, hasn't it as a verb, "to Google[38]" and a noun "Google". Um…so, Google's number one, any ideas about any of the other big websites?

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MARK: Probably Microsoft, something…something like Hotmail?
TOM: Yeah, number two is the MSN, Microsoft suite[39] of sites…
MARK: And over the last couple of years and the…the amount of people talking about it, is Facebook[40] on the list?
TOM: Facebook's number five; we've got Yahoo at three; Microsoft, four; YouTube six; Wikipedia, AOL, which nobody uses outside of America, I think, and Ebay and Apple at number ten…
MARK: So that's the top ten, most popular sites in the world?
TOM: Exactly! So now I wanna[41] have a chat about general internet usage statistics around the world…um…now which continent do you think is the…the most connected, which area?
MARK: Probably, I'd have to say North America?
TOM: And that's right again…And North America has about seventy six percent of the population on line. And which do you think is the least connected area in the world?
MARK: Africa?
TOM: Yep, right again! It's not too hard to guess that one…and Africa has only 8.7 percent connected, but the interesting thing with these figures are that Africa has had a *huge*[42] growth rate…uh…in the last ten years of one thousand, eight hundred percent…
MARK: My God, that's huge!
TOM: Yeah, it's…it's phenomenal[43] growth, and North America has had the smallest growth with a hundred and forty percent, so obviously they're nearly…uh…they're nearly all connected in America now…And in terms of the whole world population, what percentage or proportion do you think…uh…uses the internet approximately, or how many people?
MARK: Well, if we take the world population to be six billion, I'd guess at fifty percent?
TOM: It's…uh…yeah…1.7 billion, so it's a bit less than that. Is that about twenty five percent, or…?
MARK: Yeah, twenty five, thirty…
TOM: Yeah, OK, of the entire world. But the conclusion is that developing countries are rapidly[44] catching up[45]. We'll talk a little bit about that in a minute, but first we wanna look a little bit more at Spain and the UK. Now there's quite an interesting difference between Spain and the UK in terms of the internet users. There are 29 million internet users in Spain and 51 million internet users in the UK, so that's eighty three percent of the population in the UK and sixty two percent of the population in Spain. And there's quite a *huge* difference between one particular aspect, and that is on line shopping[46]. Now what do you think…uh…is the difference?
MARK: I'd say it's quite huge because I'm accustomed to shopping on line regularly, but very, very few[47] Spanish friends of mine have ever bought anything on line…
TOM: Yeah, in the…in the…UK ninety eight percent of people have at some point shopped on line, which is higher than America, North America which is only ninety five percent. And the UK spends most time on line in Europe and fifty percent of people in the UK regularly buy things on the internet now…

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MARK: I can understand that because even…even my parents who are retired[48] regularly buy things…have things delivered to home…
TOM: And if you had to guess, in Spain…uh…how many people, what percentage of people do you think shop on line regularly?
MARK: Uff…it's…I would say it's very low. Fifteen?
TOM: It's lower even, it's ten percent. Um…and we've got a…we've been talking about reasons for this, and what do you think some of the main reasons are? There's one key reason…
MARK: I think that maybe people like their first internet purchase to be a real thing, a tangible[49] thing. So for example, my first purchase was a book from Amazon, so I received something physical that I could hold…and in Spain there *is* no Amazon…
TOM: Yeah, you just "hit the nail on the head[50]" as we say in English! Basically books make up forty one percent of all on line purchases and Amazon, for various reasons, has never opened in Spain, and everybody in England…well…the majority, the *vast* majority of people, their first internet shopping experience is usually buying books from Amazon. So we feel that's the…the main reason, and there's another couple of reasons; one being the postal service[51] in Spain isn't quite as reliable...um…I've been reading various reasons on line and that's one of them, and the other one is that the pricing of books in Spain…is…doesn't fit in with[52] Amazon's business…uh…model. Anyway, to finish off, what are some of our predictions for the future with the internet? How's the internet going to shape our lives[53], and change things going forward?
MARK: I think it could be…given how much it's changed in the…past ten years, going forward…difficult to conceive[54] but I would imagine that maybe all education would be on line, similar to the distance telephone classes in Australia for Outback families[55]. There will be a virtual teacher, or one teacher in a room, with a classroom, *virtual* classroom full of international students…
TOM: Yeah, I b…I believe education, I'm totally in agreement, I think education is the big growth area on line, and teaching…people now have access all around the world to the same kind of information for reasonable prices. And…uh…particularly in developing countries it's gonna produce greater equality with their access to education, and things like self publishing[56] and blogging, you know, it gives people acc…it gives people a platform[57] to publish, you know, *anybody* can set up a website, publish their thoughts, their writing, their pictures…It gives everybody access to a market; and of course the social networks[58], that we're gonna talk about in another podcast…uh…like Facebook. They…I think they're gonna get *even* bigger and be *even* more part of our lives…
MARK: Because, for example, Facebook in Spain is an obsession with everyone now…
TOM: But it wasn't two years ago…
MARK: But a year ago, two years ago no one really knew what it was, so I have witnessed it grow exponentially[59] here in two years, so what will happen in the future…is difficult to imagine but it can only h…it can only grow…

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TOM: Cool. Thanks very much for joining us! Bye bye!
MARK: Bye bye!

Clase Centrada en el Lenguaje

Hola. Me llamo Rosario, y en la clase de inglés de hoy vamos a centrarnos en un verbo compuesto (o phrasal verb) que se usa mucho en inglés: "Get into". Este verbo tiene tres usos principales.

Primero, para hablar de entrar en algo o en algún sitio físicamente, por ejemplo:

TOM: "I couldn't get into my clothes after Christmas because I ate too much turkey."
TOM: "I couldn't get into the club because it was full."

En segundo lugar, se usa para decir que te han escogido o elegido para algo, como por ejemplo:

TOM: "I want to get into university to study particle physics."
TOM: "The politician wants to get into power at the next election."

Y en tercer lugar, se usa "Get into" de una manera mucho más coloquial, para decir que nos hemos empezado a interesar por algo o que nos hemos involucrado en algo. Por ejemplo, en la conversación Tom dijo:

TOM: "For the last few years I've been getting more into podcasting and audio on line."

Y otro ejemplo:

ROSE: "I'm really getting into my dance classes again."

Finalmente, hay otra expresión coloquial parecida que es muy común y que oiréis decir a muchos hablantes nativos todo el tiempo: "To be into something" o "To be into somebody".

Aquí tenéis algunos ejemplos de "To be into something" (que significa que algo nos gusta):

TOM: "I'm into reading books about Spain"
TOM: "I'm really into travelling"

Y en negativo a menudo diremos, por ejemplo:

TOM: "I'm not into loud music"
TOM: "I'm not really into my job"

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"To be into somebody" significa que nos gusta alguien, o más a menudo que alguien nos atrae físicamente. Algunos ejemplos son:

TOM: "Carlos is really into his new secretary."
ROSE: "My sister's really into Brad Pitt"

TOM: "We hope you're into these expressions and are gonna get into using them *every* time you speak English!"

Notes & Additional Vocabulary

[1] **Turó park** - http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tur%C3%B3_parc
[2] **A beautiful spot** – A beautiful place or location
[3] **Gigantic** – Very large
[4] **Pond** – Similar to a lake, but usually found in Parks or gardens - *Estanque*
[5] **Lillies** (Plural of lily) – A type of flower - *Lirios*
[6] **Gonna** – (Abbreviation, Colloquial) Going to
[7] **easyJet** – UK based Budget, or low cost airline. Tom thinks they are a *very* bad airline
[8] **Amazon** – (Amazon.com) On line book shop, but now it has grown it is possible to buy almost anything from Amazon
[9] **Web developer** – Someone who makes websites as their profession
[10] **London Stock Exchange** – *La Bolsa de Londres*
[11] **Freelance** - *Autónomo*
[12] **Blogger** – Someone who keeps a blog (web log – a personal website)
[13] **Blog** – A personal website
[14] **"Get more into"** – Become more involved with, or interested in something
[15] **Wanna** – (Abbreviation, Colloquial) Want to
[16] **Interchangeably** - *De manera intercambiable*
[17] **Network** – *Una red*
[18] **Hardware** – Physical parts of a computer network, for example, the servers, the PCs etc
[19] **Infrastructure** - *Infraestructura*
[20] **Interlinked** - Connected
[21] **HTML or Hyper Text** – HTML *significa* "Hyper Text Markup Language" (*Lenguaje de Marcado de Hipertexto*) - *Es el lenguaje de marcado predominante para la elaboración de páginas web. Es usado para describir la estructura y el contenido en forma de texto, así como para complementar el texto con objetos tales como imágenes*
[22] **Withstand** – Resist, Survive - *Resistir*
[23] **Nuclear Attack** – *Ataque nuclear*

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[24] **ARPANET** – The original Internet (More: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARPANET)
[25] **Tim Berners Lee** – British scientist and inventor of the World Wide Web (more: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Berners-Lee)
[26] **Unfortunately** – *Desafortunadamente / lamentablemente*
[27] **Claim to fame** – When you have something in common with someone who is famous
[28] **Oxford University** – Founded in 1096 - *La Universidad de Oxford, emplazada en la ciudad de Oxford (Reino Unido), es la universidad de habla inglesa más antigua del mundo*
[29] **Vague connection** – Not a clear connection – *Impreciso, vago*
[30] **CERN** – *Organización Europea para la Investigación Nuclear*. (More: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN)
[31] **Research** - *Investigación*
[32] **Particle Physics** – *Física de partículas*
[33] **Set up** – Start, begin
[34] **Funded** – Paid for
[35] **Busiest** (Superlative of 'busy') – *El más ocupado*
[36] "**Looking some statistics up**" – *Buscando estadísticas*
[37] **Rather than** – Instead of, in place of
[38] **To Google** – Official definition from the Cambridge dictionary "to search for something on the Internet using the Google search engine (= computer program that finds information)"
[39] **Suite** – Group - *Conjunto, colección*
[40] **Facebook** – A Social Networking website (More: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook)
[41] **Wanna** – (Colloquial) Want to
[42] **Huge** – Very, very big or enormous
[43] **Phenomenal** – Spectacular, incredible
[44] **Rapidly** – Very quickly
[45] **Catch up** – *Ponerse al nivel*
[46] **On line Shopping –** *Compra por internet*
[47] **Very few** – *Muy poco*
[48] **Retired** – People who have stopped working because of their age - *Jubilados*
[49] **Tangible** – Something real, physical - *Tangible*
[50] "**Hit the nail on the head**" - Expression to mean being exactly right or correct
[51] **Postal Service** – *El servicio de correos*
[52] "**doesn't fit in with**" – Is not compatible with…
[53] "**Shape our lives**" – Affect or influence our lives
[54] **Conceive** – Imagine or think of something
[55] **Outback families** – Families who live in the Outback – remote rural communities – in Australia (More: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outback)
[56] **Self publishing** – To publish a book yourself, without going to an editorial house or publisher (literally *autopublicar*)

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[57] "**Gives people a platform**" – Provides people with an opportunity and a place

[58] **Social Networks** – *Redes sociales*

[59] **Exponentially** -- Incredibly

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